

the Vietnam war, which lasted more than a decade. The losses during the Vietnam War, which are still vivid in many Americans' minds but many cannot remember that far back to the Korean War 42 years ago, the very fact that the losses sustained in the Korean War during just three short years were almost identical to those of the Vietnam War over a period that took three and four times longer.

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That is just how ferocious it was and just how difficult it was for our young men and women serving in Korea at that time.

So let me just call attention one more time to say that tomorrow the Speaker has agreed not to have votes on the floor of this Congress between the hours of 2 and 4. We will have a bus leaving for Members of Congress to join several hundred thousand veterans and their families and their friends who will be at this finest of memorials to the Korean War, which will once and for all set to rest the forgotten war attitude of so many people. It no longer will be forgotten, thanks to that wonderful memorial.

I just invite everybody to go see it. It is so inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I thank everyone for participating in this special order.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, war in Korea lasted 3 years. Yet, for most Americans, the Korean war remains a hazy event at best, lost between the magnitude of World War II and the upheaval of Vietnam. For many Americans, the conflict is best known because of the popular movie and television series "M*A*S*H."

The Korean war erupted on June 25, 1950, when 135,000 North Korea troops, spearheaded by 200 Russian-built tanks and planes, poured across the 38th parallel, crushing South Korean defenses. Three days later, President Truman ordered United States forces to defend South Korea.

Prompted by the action of the United States, the United Nations condemned the act of aggression. For the first time in its history, the United Nations created a United Nations Command, with the United States as its acting executive agent, to repel the attack of communist North Korea. In addition to the United States and South Korea, 20 other nations provided military contingents which served under the United Nations banner.

The fighting raged on for more than 3 years. Yet, the war received little attention back home. Active hostilities ended with an armistice on July 27, 1953.

During the war, 54,000 Americans died, including more than 34,000 on the battlefield. In addition, more than 103,000 Americans were wounded and some 8,000 are still missing or unaccounted for.

Despite their courage and sacrifice, the soldiers returning from Korea were not met with a hero's welcome. Instead, Korean veterans just blended back into the mainstream of American society. Their entitlement to national recognition is as valid today as ever. The time has come for the soldiers who stopped communist aggression in Northeast Asia to receive their proper place in history.

More than 5.7 million American servicemen and women were involved—directly or indirectly—in the Korean war. As a Korean era veteran, I am pleased that the Korean War Memorial is being dedicated on Thursday, July 27, 1995—the 42d anniversary of the armistice ending the war.

I believe it is fitting that we pay special tribute to the men and women who served during the Korean war. When the time came for courage and sacrifice, their generation stepped forward to serve their country. They left a peaceful civilian life for an uncertain future in uniform; they gave up the comforts of home for the horrors of the battlefield.

Regrettably, the 54,000 Americans who died in the cold of Korea fighting communism didn't live to see the fruits of their sacrifice, not only for Americans, but for hundreds of millions in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary—even in the Republics of the former Soviet Union.

If only these heroes could be with us today to see the changes that have swept the globe because of what they did. The Berlin all has been reduced to a chunk of concrete on display at the Ronald Reagan Library in California and Leningrad once again is St. Petersburg. Incredibly, if they could travel to Moscow, they would be amazed to see more people standing in line to get a hamburger at McDonald's than used to visit Lenin's tomb.

Throughout history, America's veterans have served and served well. They saw democracy challenged and they defended it. They say civilization threatened and they rescued it. They say our rights endangered and they sought to restore them.

America can never fully repay these veterans, and we will never be able to express our feelings to our fallen soldiers. But we must never forget how blessed we are in the modern world to live in a free society, nor forget the sacrifices of our friends, relatives, neighbors and countrymen who served us all when duty called.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE ROMNEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIM). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CHRYSLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I am here at this late hour to pay my respects to George Romney, the former Governor of the State of Michigan.

George Romney served the citizens of Michigan for many years and will be sorely missed by us all.

Katie and I consider ourselves friends of the Romney family, having worked many years with them on political and civic issues.

George Romney's personal philosophy has always been to be bold. That is the philosophy by which he lived and the philosophy by which he governed the State of Michigan. I think that is the philosophy that would fit well with the 104th Congress, and he told me to use it when I came here.

I remember when he used to climb fences to get into union halls to get in to talk to working men and women when he ran for Governor, and we should all remember the example George Romney set in his life as a pub-

lic servant and as a great person after his time in office. His life should serve as an inspiration to us all as we continue to go about the work of the people of this country.

Me deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Lenore, and his entire family.

While George will be missed, we would do well to remember the shining example he was and still should remain, and at this moment when we adjourn this Congress tonight, a moment of silence in his honor would probably, I think, be appropriate.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CHENOWETH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCHALE) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FORD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SCHROEDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HOEKSTRA) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EHRLICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOEKSTRA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CHRYSLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOKE, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(Mr. BARR, on the Gilman amendment on H.R. 2076, in the Committee of the Whole today.)

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCHALE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. OBERSTAR.

Mr. RANGEL.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, in two instances.

Mr. HALL of Ohio.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mr. MFUME.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Mr. TORRES, in two instances.

Ms. WOOLSEY.

Mr. KILDEE.

Mr. TORRICELLI.

Mr. TRAFICANT.